



MA

Researching Crisis and Change in Human Geography

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This course will provide you with the research skills to develop into a future researcher through an ESRC accredited programme of research training designed around the discipline of human geography. It aims to provide an advanced level of understanding of geography and will give you the tools to become an advanced independent researcher, able to develop, design and execute academic research projects.

Introduction

This programme will provide advanced training in geographical thought and analysis. Students will gain postgraduate level expertise on Human Geography research, with a depth and breadth that corresponds to master's-level accreditation.

The course is roughly delivered in three sections. The first part of the course will deliver core research skills training required in order for ESRC Research Training Accreditation. This is delivered in combination with Planning staff in the Department, but also in combination with students studying in Sociology. It provides a bedrock of essential research skills which can also qualify students to complete a doctoral research project if they wish.

The second part of the course (60 credits) will provide specific training in Human Geography. You will learn about different aspects of the discipline that correspond to the specialist knowledge of staff, both in the Power, Space and Social Change cluster as well as also in related human geography subfields. You will also learn in more depth about the ways in which geographers apply theory to their work, and the way in which they can use an array of methods to engage with research participants, policy-makers and communities. In this part of the course students will also have the chance to take mini-modules in sociology, which overlap generatively with the geography course.

Finally, you will also undertake a 60 credit dissertation. This piece of independent research will allow you to apply the skills developed during the taught components of the research and to focus on a topic of interest to you.

What you'll learn

- Learn the required skills to design effective research projects at a postgraduate level
- Gain a range of appropriate techniques to conduct social science research at a postgraduate level
- Develop a thorough understanding of relevant theories appropriate to their studies
- Grow your analytical skills in order to allow advanced data analysis to take place
- Develop and demonstrate your research skills through developing a research project
- Meet the ESRCs Framework for Postgraduate Training and Development in Social Science Research.

Accreditation

This course is accredited by the Economic and Social Research Council – the UK's largest funder of economic, social, behavioural and human data science.

Accreditation in detail

ESRC

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

In your first semester, you will be introduced to academic debate about knowledge producing and methods within social sciences, relationships between power, space and cultural change in relation to themes linked to crisis and change, and analysis of social survey data. You'll explore the politics and practices of social research through understanding the roles, contexts and limitations of social science.

You'll also be shown the statistical programming language R, get a good understanding of research methods, and learn to anonymise data.

Optional modules offer you the chance to learn the theory and practice of Critical Discourse Analysis and the analysis of visual data.

Please see below for semester one modules. Select the next tab to view semester two modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CRISIS AND CHANGE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS434)	15
UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY USING QUANTITATIVE METHODS (SOCI503)	20
PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (SOCI505)	20
THE POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (SOCI500)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Your second semester will give you a stronger understanding of the links between theoretical issues you'll learn in other modules and the work you will do on your dissertation project in semester three. You'll also be introduced to the latest debates, current thinking, and research on Human Geography.

The flexible approach to optional modules mean you will get the opportunity to learn statistical techniques for handling spatial data, explore the health dimensions of our environmental relationship, or deepen your understanding of researching and data gathering.

Students must select 15 credits of optional modules, other ENVS or Social Sciences module may be taken with agreement from the Programme Director.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCHING CRISIS AND CHANGE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS489)	15
THEORISING HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS416)	15
CRISIS AND CHANGE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS434)	15

Optional modules	Credits
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES (HLAC712)	15
ANTI-COLONIAL LEGACIES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (POLI526)	15
GLOBAL GEOGRAPHIES OF YOUTH (ENVS339)	15
POLAND: POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHIES SINCE 1939 (ENVS313)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your final semester is all about planning, researching and writing your dissertation. You will use all of the skills and knowledge you gained in previous modules to develop a full-scale research project to demonstrate your research and analytical skills, ultimately creating a dissertation of up to 15,000 words.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MA DISSERTATION IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS493)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Lectures, lab or computer-based practicals, workshops, tutorials, and seminars will take place on campus, so will give you plenty of opportunity to engage with the theory and real-world implications of research into human geography, as well as your colleagues and lecturers.

You'll push yourself and learn independently, through reading and learning qualitative research and methodologies, and access real world data via the UK Data Archive.

You can dig deeper online and take part in discussion forums with other students and researchers in the field.

How you're assessed

Through a series of oral presentations, essays, and reports you'll be able to demonstrate your understanding of existing research in human geography, along with how you interpret

existing data.

You will also complete some assessments that mimic real world work you may produce after your master's – including a conversation journalism piece, essays in the form of reports or academic papers, and policy briefs.

There are also exams in some modules, which may have longform essay questions or “short answer” questions which require you to show your understanding of, and ability to apply, descriptive and inferential statistics to a real-world dataset.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Following this postgraduate programme, you will be able to understand the whole process of undertaking research, through from project design, data collection & analysis and interpretation of results. As a result, you will be well placed to apply for entry into a research-led career pathway.

This MA is designed to allow you to meet the criteria for ESRC accreditation for research training, and students would therefore be able to apply for UK Research Council funding for PhD research.

Graduates from this programme possess a range of skills which are applicable to wider research activity beyond academia, including working for social and market research companies or for research arms of government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £14,000

Part-time place, per year – £7,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a relevant humanities subject.

Non-graduates with very extensive professional experience and/or other prior qualifications may also be considered.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 95.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit overall and no band below B2 Pass

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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